

unable to keep from discovering to them who he was. The tears flood in his eyes, and his heart panting to be unburdened. But to prevent any explanation at present, he went into a room near at hand, and indulged his feelings, with a flood of tears.

At length he recovered, and having washed his face, went out to them again; and ordered his servants to bring forward the dinner. Accordingly three tables were set, one for Joseph, as master of the house, one for the Egyptians, who attended upon him, and another for the sons of Jacob, at the lower end of the room. The reason for thus separating them was, that the Egyptians would not eat with any Hebrews, because they were accustomed to kill and partake of those beasts which the Egyptians, through their ignorance, worshipped as Gods.

Joseph

Joseph, to shew his respect for Benjamin, and perhaps to try whether his brothers would envy him his honour, as they had formerly done himself, sent him five times as much meat as he did to any of the others. Not that we can suppose he ate five times more than any of them, for that would make him a glutton; but perhaps this conduct of setting so much before him, was reckoned a great compliment in that age.

And now they are eating, and drinking, and are merry. Therefore let us leave them, and this chapter.

CHAP.